

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COMMERCIAL SABLEFISH FISHERY UPDATE SEASON OPENING AND QUOTA ALLOCATIONS

The 2013 PWS sablefish season will open April 15 with a 242,000 lb guideline harvest level (GHL). Fishing season dates are **April 15 - August 31**. The fishery is managed via quota allocations among vessel size permit classes as specified in regulation 5 AAC 28.272. The table below indicates the number of registered permits, quota allocation in round weight and dressed (eastern cut) weight by permit category.

Permit Category	Registered Permits	Quota Round (lb)	Quota Dressed (lb)
A & B	4	7,888	4,970
C	38	4,522	2,849
D	11	3,508	2,211

Each permit holder's catch total will be verified based on the sablefish weight as delivered. To avoid any misunderstanding, processors are required to report round weight pounds for all deliveries of whole fish. Deliveries of dressed fish shall be reported on the fish ticket in both dressed weight and as a round weight conversion.

Fishermen are reminded that a sablefish quota overage is an illegal harvest and may be subject to prosecution. All sablefish in excess of an individual's quota allocation must be noted on the fish ticket as a "sablefish overage" and a check to the State of Alaska for the value of the overage must accompany the fish ticket.

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PWS sablefish permit holders are reminded:

- 1) **Six-hour prior notice of landing for sablefish** is required by calling **(907) 424-7225** and reporting: 1) Permit holder name and landing location, 2) buyer or processor, 3) estimated time of arrival, and 4) estimated number of pounds of sablefish (indicate round or dressed) on board the vessel.
- 2) Logbook sheets must be completed and returned, either by mail to ADF&G (P.O. Box 669, Cordova, AK. 99574), fax (907) 424-3235, or accompanying the fish ticket, **within 10 days** after each landing.

Additional fishery regulations include:

- 1) A vessel operator shall unload all sablefish taken in the PWS management area, and a copy of the completed fish ticket must be submitted to ADF&G before taking sablefish in another registration area.
- 2) A vessel operator with sablefish on board that were taken in another registration area may not take sablefish in the PWS management area.
- 3) When targeting sablefish in PWS, copies of all completed PWS sablefish fish tickets issued to a sablefish permit holder for the current season must be retained on board the registered vessel.

With the exception of Pacific cod, bycatch to sablefish is set at an aggregate 20% by weight of all sablefish and IFQ halibut on board the vessel. All rockfish caught must be retained, weighed and reported by species. Rockfish bycatch allowance is 20% for sablefish and 10% for halibut (5 AAC 28.265). Rockfish in excess of these bycatch allowances must be weighed, reported as a bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket and proceeds from their sale are surrendered to the state. There is a separate 20% bycatch allowance for Pacific cod; this allowance is in addition to the 20% aggregate bycatch allowance of other species specified above. However, the landed weight of Pacific cod retained as bycatch may not exceed 20 percent of the directed finfish species on board the vessel. **All bycatch must be landed on a Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) sablefish or halibut permit card.**

Lingcod may not be retained prior to the opening of the directed fishery on July 1, 2013.

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